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ABSTRACT

Many accidents in the home are caused by faulty, defective or improperly designed tools, appliances, and equipment. Government, non-governmental organizations, and industries cooperate to develop and implement standards for the safe design and manufacture of consumer products. This booklet provides information to help consumers select products, alerts them to potential hazards, and lists suggestions and procedures for the safe use of appliances and tools. It emphasizes points to consider in the purchase and use of electrical appliances and illustrates the proper procedures for using fuel burning (gas, propane, oil, wood, kerosene, and coal) appliances. Guidelines on the installation and care of household appliances such as electric blankets, irons, and vacuum cleaners are provided and the safe operation of potentially hazardous outdoor equipment such as snowblowers and lawnmowers is described. Special emphasis is placed on faulty heating equipment and the many potential sources of fires. (SM)

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Saskatchewan
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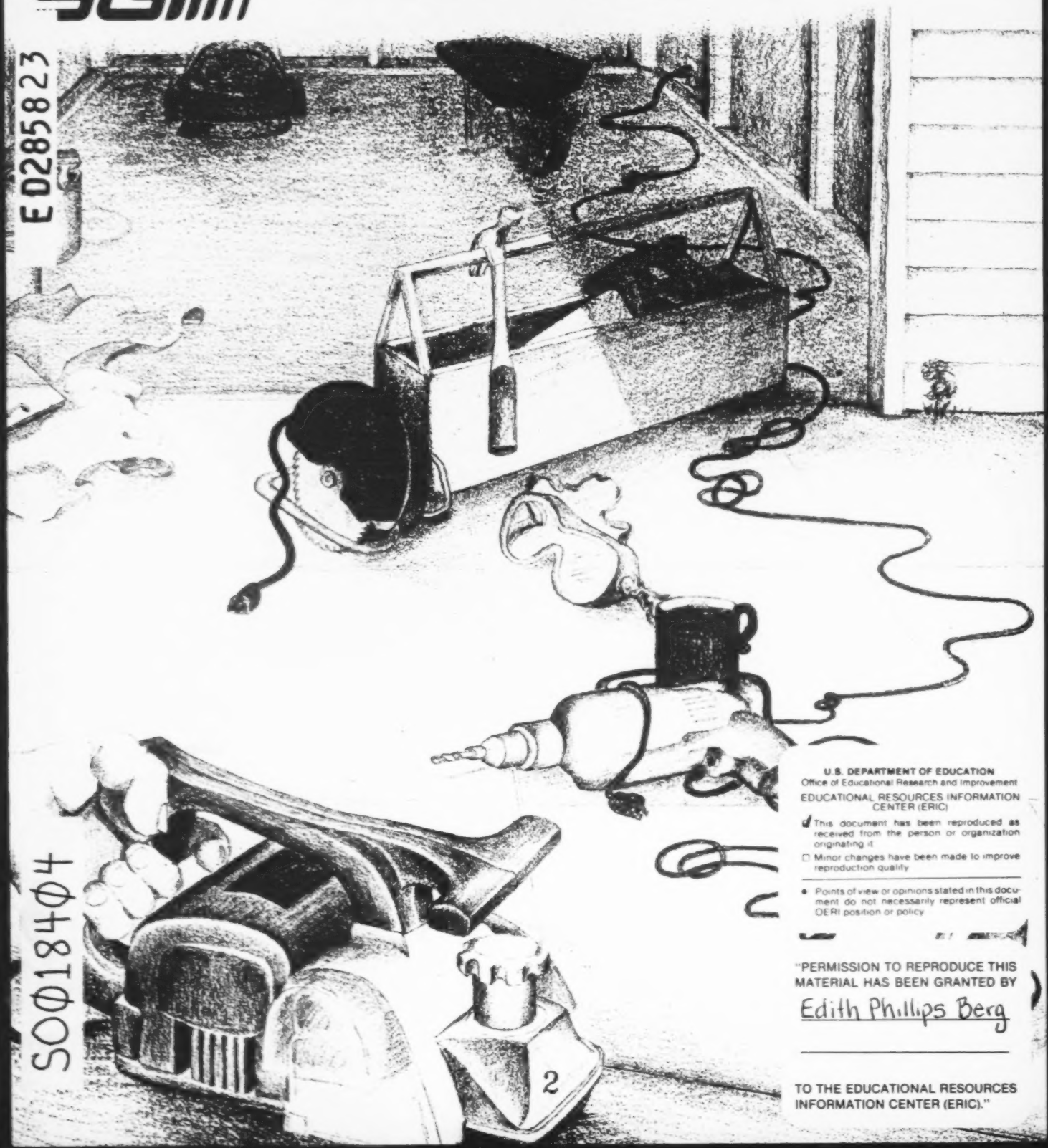
III. Home Safe Home: Appliances, Tools and Small Equipment



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"Look Out Below"

Approximately 2,250 Canadians are killed in accidents each year in and around the home. Another 365,000 people are injured, many permanently.

Household accidents account for the second-highest rate of death or injury in the country, second only to highway accidents!

Some of these accidents are caused by faulty, defective or improperly designed tools, appliances and equipment. But many of them could have been avoided just by taking more care, being familiar with some of the risks involved in using products around the house, and by using a little common sense.

In Canada, government, non-governmental organizations and industry co-operate to develop and use **standards** for the safe design and manufacture of consumer products. These standards and regulations provide you the consumer with a minimum level of protection and assure you that certain requirements have been met. However, it is up to the individual to use these products safely and responsibly and to teach our children to use them safely and without risk.

Household appliances, tools and home and garden equipment have simplified many of the chores around the home. Conveniences such as microwave ovens, dishwashers and dryers free us from repetitive tasks and allow more time for fitness, recreation, family life, studies and work.

But for every convenience, there are certain responsibilities attached to the use of a product.

This booklet provides information to help you select consumer products, alerts you to potential hazards, and lists suggestions and procedures for the safe use of your appliances and tools.

The Aware Consumer's Safety Checklist

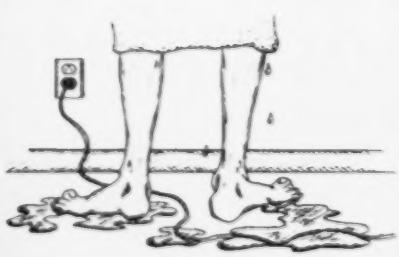
Before purchasing appliances, tools or equipment, look before you leap. Stop and consider these steps, and then choose according to your needs. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

PREPURCHASE DECISION MAKING	• Gather information about the product to make sure it will serve your purpose. • Make sure the product does what it claims to. **Beware of misleading advertising or inflated claims by sellers.**
BUYING DECISION MAKING	• Examine the product for damage or tampering. • Ask the salesperson for information on the purpose of the product and its proper use. • Make sure an electrical item carries the CSA sign of approval. • Think about the possible hazards through use or misuse of this product. • **Keep your bill in case of future problems.**
USING	• Read the instructions and warranty carefully before using the equipment. • Teach others in your household how to use this item safely. • Keep electrical appliances unplugged when not in use.
ACCIDENTS	• Report any problem in writing to the manufacturer. • Report the problem to the appropriate agency. (See Booklet I)
MAINTENANCE	• Inspect items periodically for wear or breakage. • Follow manufacturers' instructions for maintenance. • Repair item as soon as repairs are needed. Store items in a safe, appropriate place.

Electrical Safety

Following are a number of points to consider when purchasing and using electrical appliances and equipment:

- Before buying an electrical appliance, check for a **Canadian Standards Association** (CSA) certification mark. It is the law in each province and territory in Canada that all electrical appliances meet CSA standards.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions before using a new appliance. Keep the instructions handy for future use.
- Teach children how to use appliances safely and keep small children away from hazards.
- Never touch plugged-in appliances when your hands are wet. Unplug them before cleaning.
- If appliances spark, overheat or stall, or give you a tingle when you touch them, pull out the plug and have them checked by a service respresentative.
- Radios, hairdryers or any other electrical appliances are a hazard near water. If your hands are wet or you are standing on a wet floor, you could get a shock. Never use a hairdryer where there is a chance of it falling into a tub or sink of water. Don't use electric space heaters in the bathroom or the laundry room.
- Replace frayed appliance cords or defective wiring on all appliances as soon as discovered.
- Disconnect appliances such as irons, toasters, electric hair dryers or curling irons as soon as you have finished using them.
- Don't use two or more electric heating appliances such as a frypan and a tea kettle on the same circuit unless an electrician has certified that the wires are large enough to accommodate the current of both appliances.
- Don't attempt to do any electrical wiring unless you are qualified.
- Cover unused base plugs in your home so children can't poke metal objects into them.
- When a fuse blows, the trouble is either overload or short circuit. Disconnect any extra appliances before putting in a new fuse. Use only the proper size of fuse — never a penny!
- Keep the floor around washtubs and machines dry to eliminate the risk of electrical shock.
- Avoid the use of extension cords. If use of extension cords is necessary make sure they are heavy enough for the amperage required.
- Never retrieve an electrical appliance which has fallen into water without first unplugging it.
- Keep portable heaters where they can't be knocked over or ignite bed clothes or curtains. If you must use one, make sure that it has a safety feature that causes it to automatically turn off if it's turned over.



Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI)

A GFCI is a device which senses ground faults (accidental electrical paths to the ground in circuits) and instantly cuts off all electrical power in that ciruit.

GFCI's are recommended in homes, particularly in the kitchen, bathroom, basement, laundry areas and with outdoor outlets. They have proven to be very effective in preventing electrical fires and electrocutions. The **Canadian Electrical Code** requires that all new family dwellings have GFCI's installed in outdoor areas and bathrooms with tubs or shower stalls.

There are three kinds of GFCI's: the kind that can be installed as part of a circuit breaker panel, the kind that can be installed in the wall instead of a standard receptacle, and the portable type that does not require installation but is simply plugged into existing receptacles.

Wall receptacle types cost about $15. and portable types, $25. Both are available at hardware stores.

Have the electrical equipment or appliance that has tripped the GFCI checked for safety. For regular maintenance, test the reset button at least once a month.

Polarized Electrical Receptacles

Rules and standards in the **Canadian Electrical Code** are constantly updated to help ensure that electrical installations and appliances in your home are as safe as possible from shock and fire hazards. Now, all permanently wired receptacles are required to be polarized to reduce the chances of electrical shock. You can recognize polarized receptacles because one slot is wider then the other. Some equipment now has polarized attachment plugs (one blade wider than the other). **Don't** force a polarized plug into an old type (unpolarized) receptacle and use only polarized extension cords with polarized plugs and receptacles.

Extension Cords

It's easy to take extension cords for granted. Each year in Canada, hundreds of people are injured by electrical extension cords. About a third of the injuries involve children under ten. Electrical burns to the mouth are the most common injury. A large number of electrical fires are also caused by extension cords because of short circuiting, overloading and misuse, and use of worn or damaged cords. Other accidents involve people tripping over cords.

Precautions:

- Make sure that any extension cord you purchase or use has the CSA stamp of approval. Remember, it's against the law in Canada to sell cords without the CSA label.
- Purchase extension cords that are clearly labelled as to how much wattage they can carry.
- Many extension cords cannot carry more than seven amperes* or 840 watts of current, so check the current rating on the cord label and never overload it.
- Use cords rated for at least 15 amps for any large appliances. If you overload a cord by attaching it to a high powered appliance, its insulation may melt or catch fire.
- Use extension cords only temporarily or in an emergency. If you find yourself using cords regularly and you're short of outlets, it is a better idea to call an electrician to have your wiring upgraded and the number of outlets increased.
- If an appliance has a three-pronged plug, use only those extension cords that will accommodate all three prongs.
- Buy and use extension cords with safety closures and other safety features to prevent the possibility of a child's mouth making contact with the electrical current. If cords don't have safety closures, cover them up with electrical tape.
- Insert plugs fully, leaving no part of the prongs exposed.
- Inspect cords frequently for wear or damage and immediately discard any old, cracked, worn or damaged cords.
- Teach children not to play with plugs and outlets, and that they should never attempt to unplug cords.
- Pay attention to any cords that may be pushed against the wall or furniture. Special angle plugs are available for use at tight locations.
- Never place extension cords under rugs or carpets or in an areas where they can be damaged by traffic or heavy furniture.
- Never overload light duty extension cords by plugging in appliances which draw a total of more watts than the cord rating. Running a cord under a rug may lead to overheating, as may leaving it coiled.
- Only use outdoor extension cords with outdoor appliances, but always store them indoors.

*Amperes = watts divided by volts. 840 watts divided by 120 volts to get 7 amperes.

Fuel Burning Appliance Safety (Gas, Propane, Oil, Wood, Kerosene, Coal)

1. Supply enough fresh air to any fuel burning heating appliance. These appliances must have enough combustion air for safe operation. Air (dilution air) is also needed to expel the products of combustion such as soot and gases to the outdoors. Chimneys and gas vents should be inspected regularly to ensure free and unobstructed passageways to the outside.
2. The chimney is an important part of your fuel heating system. A chimney designed solely for use with oil or gas cannot be used safely for wood or coal (solid fuels).
3. Every chimney flue and fluepipe should be inspected and cleaned annually or as often as may be necessary to keep it from dangerous accumulations of combustible deposits. (ie. creosote for wood burning appliances.)
4. Keep combustible materials away from fuel burning appliances.
5. Sask Power advises the following steps if you suspect a gas leak:
   - Call Sask Power immediately.
   - Evacuate all occupants from the area affected.
   - Do not operate any electrical switches.
   - Extinguish all sources of ignition.
   - Shut off the gas at the meter stop on the service entrance if it can be done safely. Never turn it back on until checked by SaskPower.

   Before you dig, call Sask Power to check for location of underground lines.

Turning Off Utilities

Prepare for household emergencies involving utilities by identifying all shut-off valves and switches in your home. Experts say that if you know the source of a gas or water leak or an electrical short and you know how to shut off that utility, you can prevent a great deal of damage by doing so at the immediate moment you smell gas or smoke or find water pouring from a burst pipe.

Label all the valves and switches clearly, using colourful tags. Be specific. Labels should name the utility and the devices or areas it serves.

Once you've done this, take everyone who is old enough to operate shut off valves and switches on a tour of the house. Each person should actually flip the switch or shut the valves to feel which way they move and how much force is required to move them. Discuss home evacuation plans and how to call for help at the same time.

Household Appliances/Equipment — Precautions

The first steps in assuring safety with home appliances is to purchase equipment that bears the seal of certification of an agency authorized to test and certify it (C.S.A., C.G.A., U.L.C., Warnock-Hersey, see Booklet I for seals).

Make sure that your home appliances:

- are installed by a qualified person according to manufacturers' specifications and local building codes
- are protected from the weather and freezing or overheating
- are properly connected to electricity, water, gas, drain, exhaust, etc.
- are not used by young children or anyone unable to operate them properly.

Precautions to take when using appliances:

- **Always use a separate, grounded electrical circuit for each major electrical appliance.**
- **Never use an extension cord for major home appliances.**
- **Always turn off gas and unplug power cords or turn off power before doing any maintenance, extensive cleaning or servicing of the appliance.**
- **Never modify the power cord, plug, wiring or any other component of an appliance.**
- **Read and follow all instructions that come with your appliance.**

Small Kitchen Appliances

The kitchen is the most frequently used room in the house. Many accidents involving burns, scalds, falls, cuts and poisonings take place there.

Precautions to take when purchasing or using small kitchen appliances:

- **Check if the appliance stands firmly and level without danger of tipping.**
- **Read the manufacturers' instructions carefully for proper use, care, cleaning and maintenance.**
- **Do not adjust parts of insert beaters and blades into mixers, blenders or grinders while the motor is on or the power cord plugged in.**
- **Make sure all parts are connected tightly before operating. For example, see that the jar is tightly screwed onto the base of the blender and that beaters "click" into place on mixers.**
- **Keep fingers and hands away from the blades of operating appliances at all times and avoid handling appliances with wet hands or when standing on a damp floor.**

- Never immerse the motor base of a blender, mixer, chopper/slicer or grinder in water.
- Disconnect appliances by grasping the plug, not the cord. Remove the plug from the wall outlet first, then from the appliance if it is a detachable cord.
- Don't let cords come close to ovens or other hot objects.
- Immediately replace worn cords and plugs.
- Short or retractable cords are safer on appliances which can be accidentally knocked over, such as electric coffee pots.
- Use three-prong grounded plugs in three-hole receptacles.
- Do not plug two heat-producing appliances into the same circuit at the same time.
- Never insert a metal utensil into a toaster or similar appliance.

Other Small Household Appliances

Cordless Telephone

Cordless telephones may be hazardous to your hearing. Many older model, cordless phones have a ringer/bell in the earpiece. Remember to switch off the sound mechanism before lifing the phone to your ear. Read all instructions for use.

If you are considering a cordless phone, look for a model that does not have the bell in the earpiece.

Electric Blankets and Heating Pads

- Don't let someone with heat sensory problems or who can't operate the controls use them as they won't be able to tell if it's too hot or turn it down.
- Never wet or use pins which can cause short circuits and serious electrical shock hazards.
- Keep pets with sharp claws off the blanket.
- To clean, follow the manufacturer's instructions. Never dryclean as the solvents used can damage the wiring.
- Never fold an electric blanket or heating pad as this might cause a section to overheat.
- Ensure that the connector between the blanket and the controls is inserted properly.

Humidifiers

Dirty humidifiers, being perfect breeding grounds for bacteria and mould, pose a risk of infections. The American Lung Association recommends cleaning the cool mist humidifiers especially, daily or each time you refill the tank. This is particularly important for units used around children or anyone who suffers from allergies or lung problems.

- Always use these according to manufacturers' instructions and clean frequently with a mixture of water and a chlorine disinfectant or vinegar.
- Check humidifiers attached to furnaces for similar problems.
- The close proximity of a heat source increases the likelihood of bacterial breeding.

Irons

- Make sure the iron has a wide resting base that will not tip easily.
- Look for an iron with a large water opening so that it will be easy to fill, minimizing the chance of spilling water on electrical components.
- Always unplug an iron and put it out of reach of children even if you leave it just a few minutes.
- Avoid ironing in exposed traffic areas.
- Teach youngsters to stay away from irons.

Vacuum Cleaners

- Never us a vacuum cleaner to pick up cigarette butts. The dust in a vacuum cleaner is highly flammable and a spark from a smouldering butt could set it on fire.
- Don't use a vacuum cleaner to pick up sharp items like tacks or pins which could become jammed inside the unit and damage the appliance.
- A vacuum cleaner should never be used in any area where you have been using gasoline, oilbase paints, paint thinners or cleaning solvents. Sparks from the motor could ignite the vapours in the air and cause an explosion.
- Do not vacuum wet or damp surfaces unless the appliance has been specifically designed for this purpose.
- A vacuum cleaner should never be stored outdoors where it could come in contact with moisture.
- Always turn the power off and pull out the plug before you unclog a hose or change a cleaner bag.
- If your vacuum or electric broom does not use disposable bags, make sure you empty the dust bin regularly.

Case Studies

How could these accidents have been prevented?

1. Gloria was blending a thick soup when the blender jar came loose from the base. When she grabbed for the jar to keep it from falling, it separated from the collar exposing the rotating blades attached to the motor drive. Her hand struck the blades and she suffered severe cuts.
2. Joanne was stirring a cake mix in her mixer when the blades jammed. She started to push the beaters around, but accidentally turned on the motor. Her thumb was caught in the whirling beaters and she suffered a bad bruise and lacerations on the thumb.
3. Max was chopping potatoes in his blender. The potatoes at the bottom became slushy and the blades couldn't reach those at the top. Max poked his fingers into the blender to push down the food when his fingers contacted the blades. The tip of one finger was amputated.

Major Appliances

Kitchen Stoves

Kitchen stoves are the primary source of accidents experienced by the elderly. Accidents happen when people lean over or against the range or reach across it causing loose-fitting garments or dangling towels to catch fire, when young children climb on or around the range and receive burns either from the elements or the oven door, or when products such as contact cement, kerosene and gasoline being used in the kitchen are ignited by a pilot light on a gas stove. Gas ranges that do not have pilot lights are especially hazardous because gas can gather and be ignited by something as simple as a match or light switch. Fires can also start when grease is left unattended on the stove. Children can receive serious scalds and burns by pulling pots on top of themselves, too.

Precautions:

- Knobs should be difficult for children to reach.
- Signal lights should show when a burner is on.
- Wear tight-fitting clothes whenever you use the stove. Use potholders, not towels, to move pans on the stove. Keep curtains and dishtowels away from the stove.
- If your clothing accidently catches fire, don't run. Drop down immediately and roll to smother the flames. Teach your children the same. Stop, drop and roll!
- If you have a grease fire in a pan, cover the pan with a lid and turn off the burner. The fire will smother. Do not try to pick up the pan and carry it anywhere. If you want to use a fire extinguisher be sure it is a dry-chemical type.
- Keep children away from kitchen stoves. Don't store cookies or other items above the stove or in a place which will entice children to climb on the stove. Keep children out of the kitchen when you use the stove or oven — oven doors can get so hot that an accidental fall against the door can cause burns.
- If you have a gas stove, and the oven has no pilot light, do not turn on the gas until you have a match lit. Turn off the pilot if you use an oven cleaner because the spray could be ignited by the flame.
- Never use flammable liquids around a gas stove. The fumes can easily ignite.
- With a gas stove, keep all air vents open so that the gas gets enough oxygen to burn properly.
- Use proper size pots for the burners, turning handles to the side or back to avoid the risk of hitting the handles and spilling the hot contents on yourself or your children.
- Never use the stove surface as a counter.
- Don't use the stove to heat the room.
- Don't store products in the oven because these materials could ignite and cause a fire.
- Clean up grease deposits around the burners because the grease can ignite.

Microwave Ovens

Microwave ovens are time-saving conveniences that need to be properly used and maintained.

Precautions:

- Never operate a microwave oven if the door is damaged or does not close properly. Microwave ovens are designed to operate only when the door is closed. Always turn the microwave off before opening the door. Never operate the oven when it is empty.
- Have your microwave oven regularly serviced to make sure that door hinges, latches, safety locks and seals are in good order and that the oven doesn't leak.
- Use only the cooking utensils recommended in your oven's use and care guide. Utensils and food should fit into the oven without touching the top of the oven. Metal twist ties, foil-lined packages, metal staples and metallic glaze or trim can result in arcing and possible damage to the oven.
- Consider ventilation and manufacturers' instructions when installing microwave ovens.
- Do not let anything get between the oven door and sealing surfaces. Clean up spills immediately and keep the area clean.
- Do not overcook food. Overcooking some foods can cause them to scorch or flame. Other foods can explode.

Automatic Dishwashers

Precautions:

- Load sharp items so they are not likely to damage the door seal or cut you when opening the door.
- Do not reach into the area below the bottom rack until the heating element has cooled for at least 20 minutes after a cycle.
- Use only detergents and rinse aids recommended for use in the dishwasher.
- Never operate a dishwasher that is not working right, has missing parts or does not have all panels in place.

Automatic Clothes Washer

Precautions:

- Install in an area where the temperature will not fall below freezing.
- Never use flammable liquids, dry-cleaning solvents or gasoline in or near a washer.
- Never pour chlorine bleach into wash water which contains ammonia or acids such as vinegar or rust remover. Irritating fumes can result.
- Never put your hands into a washer while it is agitating or spinning. Wait for it to stop completely.
- Do not operate a washer that is not working right, has missing parts or is not completely put together.
- Keep the floor around the washer dry.

Automatic Clothes Dryers

Precautions:

- Install in a well-ventilated area away from explosive chemicals or fumes.
- Make sure the dryer is properly exhausted, vented and connected to electric or gas supplies. Never vent into a chimney, but directly outside.
- Never dry items containing wax or paint because the fumes could create a fire hazard.
- Clean the lint trap regularly because it could ignite.
- Be careful when you use antistatic spray — it has been found to contribute to fire hazards. Never spray on electric coils or heating area.
- Do not overload a dryer — it can cause overheating.
- Keep the area around the dryer dry to minimize the risk of electrical shock.
- Do not let dust, lint, paper, rags, etc. pile up around a dryer.
- Always shut off a gas dryer's gas valve before leaving on vacation.
- Never dry heat-sensitive materials such as plastics or foam rubber on a warm or hot setting.

Refrigerators and Freezers

Precautions:

- Always wait until the appliance is properly cold before loading food to prevent thawing and spoilage.
- Always remove the doors of old appliances to prevent accidents with small children.
- Never use an ice pick, knife, sharp tool or any type of electric defroster to defrost a freezer.

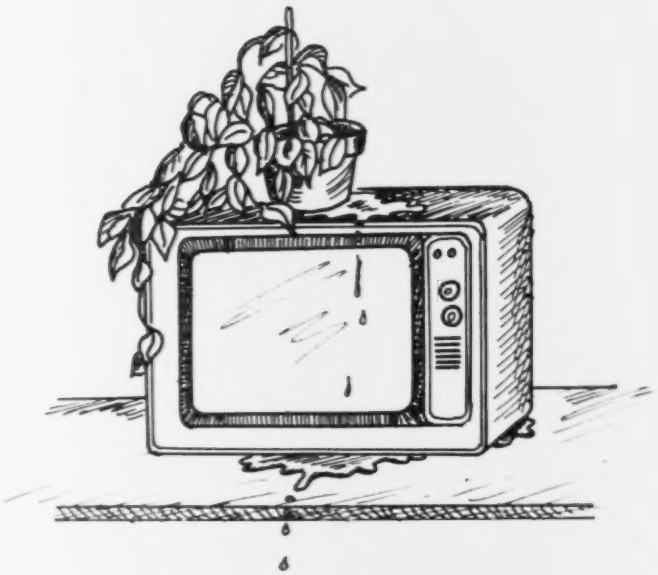
Television Sets

Fires, electric shocks and electrocutions are some of the serious accidents resulting from television sets in the home.

Precautions:

- Always turn the TV off if it is necessary to leave the room for more than a short period of time. Never leave the house without turning the set off.
- Unplug the TV from the wall outlet and disconnect the external antenna lead-in-wires of the set when you leave on vacation.
- Don't cover the ventilation openings on the set with cloth or papers, or place the set close to a wall or piece of furniture. This can cause overheating.
- Do not place liquids on top of a set. Spilled liquid can cause electrical shorts that can result in fire or shock.
- For extra protection, unplug the set and antenna during a thunder storm.
- Warn children never to drop or push objects into the TV cabinet.
- Do not touch the set or antenna with wet hands. It carries a deadly charge even when the set is off.

- Never clean the face of the picture tube while the set is on.
- If the set makes loud snapping or popping noises or stops working properly, disconnect and have a qualified repairperson make repairs.
- Do not allow anything to rest on or roll over the connecting power cord. This may result in shock or fire.
- Never place the set near or over a radiator or heat register.
- Do not place a TV set on a shelf that is not properly secured. Be careful when moving it from room to room.
- Do not place plants on or above the TV set. Watering and misting can lead to shocks.



Audio Equipment (Stereos, etc.)

Precautions:

- Operate audio equipment from the power source indicated in the operating instructions or manual.
- If the power cord is polarized, use only in a polarized plug receptacle.
- Avoid the use of extension cords.
- Audio products have ventilation openings in the cabinet to allow heat generated during use to be released. Never block these. Check to be sure that any bottom ventilation slots are exposed, too. Never place the set near a heat source.

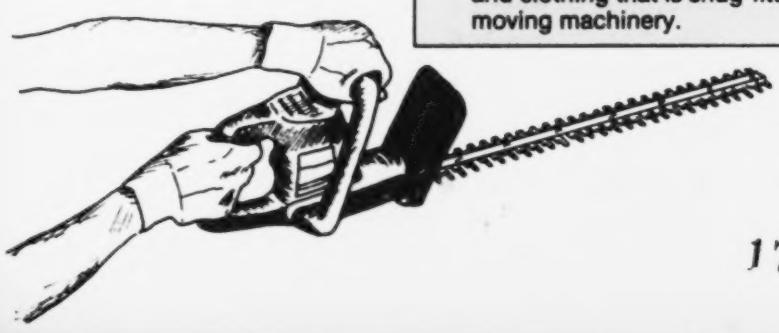
Workshop and Garden Tools

Each year there are thousands of injuries involving home workshop power tools, lawnmowers and snowblowers and other garden and lawn equipment. Most injuries result when:

- contact is made with the cutting surface of a blade, bit, sharp revolving surface, clipper, or other moving part of a tool;
- lack of proper grounding causes electrocutions and shocks while working in or around water, on a damp lawn, or around a metal ladder;
- sparks from power tools ignite oily rags and flammable liquids such as varnish, paint, cements, gasoline, etc.; and,
- flying materials like sawdust, wood blocks, metal filings, staples from a staple gun and other materials strike or become embedded in the user.

Precautions:

- **Read the owner's manual. Familiarize yourself with the applications, limitations and hazards of each tool.**
- **Many new tools are double-insulated or all-insulated, built-in protection against electrical shock. Other tools are equipped with a three-prong plug for use in a three-hole receptacle of a grounded wiring system. Never remove the third prong and always use properly.**
- **To prevent electrical fires, do not connect a heavy-duty tool using 12 or 13 amperes to an electrical circuit on which another appliance is operating.**
- **On portable tools, there should be a dead-man switch that shuts off power when hand pressure is released, and dynamic braking to make the blade or bit stop immediately after the power is turned off.**
- **Keep the working area clear to prevent tripping, bumping or falling-material accidents. Power tools should be used in dry and well-lit areas. When not in use, they should be stored out of the way.**
- **All guards should be in place at all times when using power tools. If it's necessary to remove them for servicing, do this on completion of your tasks, and according to the manufacturer's instructions. Don't risk accidents even if guards are inconvenient! It's better to be a little inconvenienced than injured!**
- **Make use of personal protective equipment and proper apparel. Safety glasses or face shields should be worn when there is danger of flying fragments, and dust masks should be worn if there is dust. Wear safety-toe footwear, hearing protection when necessary, hard hats if there is a danger of bumping your head or something dropping on it, safety trousers with ballistic nylon inserts to prevent cuts to the legs and thighs, protective gloves when using items such as chain saws, and clothing that is snug-fitting to prevent it from getting caught in the moving machinery.**



- Use the proper tool for the job. A small power tool is not designed to do the same job as a heavy power tool. Power tools should be operated at the recommended rate and never forced, or blades and bits might shatter and harm you.
- Use clamps or vices to hold the work piece, especially when using drilling or cutting tools. It's safer than using your hand and allows you to use two hands to operate the tools more safely.
- Carry tools by the handles, not the cords.
- When carrying energized tools, keep your fingers clear of the switch.
- When using saws, prevent kickback by not cutting too deeply or too quickly, or cutting wood with knots, embedded nails or screws.

Snowblowers and Lawnmowers

About 5,000 people in Canada are injured by lawnmowers and snowblowers each year.

A rotary mower can hurl a piece of wood or a stone 80 feet or further at speeds of 325 kilometres per hour or more, fast enough to plough deeply into flesh and bone with the impact of a 22-calibre bullet.

Other injuries involve fingers and toes coming into contact with the mower blades or snowblower auger, rotor, drive chain, pulley or belts. Usually accidents like these happen when the operator tries to adjust or clear the machine without first turning it off, or by having a foot slip on a steep grade. Other injuries include electrical shock.

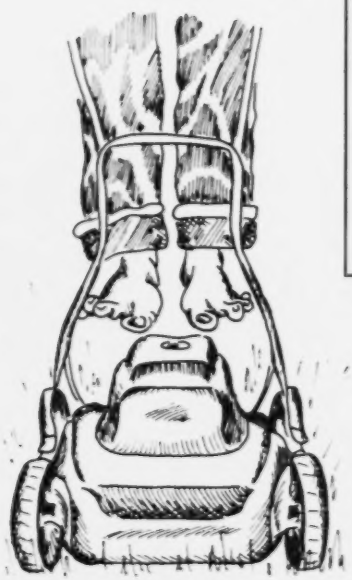
Safety standards for lawnmowers, updated in 1982, deal with the placement of protective shields, the location of controls plus the requirement that a lawnmower stop within 3 seconds of mower handle release. Accidents continue because older power mowers don't have these safety features and because hand-held weed eaters are increasing in popularity.

Snowblowers should have interlocks that stop the auger and wheels when handgrips are released. Again, some older machines may lack this "dead man" control.

Precautions:

- Clean, adjust or refuel the mower or snowblower, if necessary, before you start.
- Wear sturdy, rough-soled work shoes and close-fitting clothes (no long scarves). **Never** operate in bare feet, sandals or sneakers.
- Take time to read the operator's manual and be familiar with the lawnmower's or snowblower's operation.

- Work in the daylight only, unless you have good artificial light.
- Keep bystanders out of the area. Before mowing or removing snow, ensure that no objects are left laying around that could be picked up and hurled.
- Push, don't pull the machine.
- When working on slopes, go across rather than up and down to minimize the risk of slipping under the mower or tripping. Be sure of your footing and balance and keep hands and feet away from moving parts.
- Don't lift or tip the machine while it is running; it's too easy to use your foot unconsciously.
- Never mow a wet lawn — you could slip and come in contact with the rotating blade. If you are using an electric mower, you run the risk of electric shock.
- When using an electric mower, be very careful not to run over the cord or entangle it in the blades. Start mowing the grass nearest to the electrical outlet and gradually move out.
- Before doing anything with the mower, wait at least half a minute after shutting off the machine to make sure the blades have stopped.
- Never remove the safety shield or any other safety devices on a mower or snowblower.
- Never refuel the machine shield indoors or while it is running or hot.
- Don't smoke around the mower or snowblower because fumes can ignite.
- Never allow small children to operate a power mower or snowblower. Older children should cut the grass only if they have been properly instructed.
- Never give children rides on a riding mower.
- Never move a mower or snowblower with a motor running across a gravel driveway or sidewalk. Don't attempt to scrape off all snow from gravel or crushed rock surfaces and adjust the height to avoid the pickup and projection of dangerous missiles.
- Make sure that any electrically powered motor is properly grounded.
- Never blow snow towards people, cars or houses since a stone or chunk of ice ejected by the machine could cause serious injury.
- Turn off the motor before trying to free blocked ejection chutes or auger. According to a University of Vermont study, 12 out of 15 victims of snowblower injuries were hurt in this way.
- Store the fuel for your mower in a cool, dry, well-ventilated place away from sources of heat or flame and children.



Lawn Trimmers or Edgers and Power Hedge Trimmers

Precautions:

- Buy a trimmer with cutting teeth and guards that are close together — not wide enough to put your finger between them.
- Be sure the hedge trimmer has two handles; the forward handle should be wide and high above the cutting blades.
- Buy lightweight machines you can control easily.
- Look for a machine with a pressure-sensitive switch that turns off when the pressure is released.
- Use trimmers and edgers that are double-insulated or grounded with a three-wire cord.
- Never change positions of the hands while the trimmer is running.
- Never use the trimmer or mower to move branches out of the way.
- Don't stand on a chair or ladder because it can tip or move while you are trimming.
- Avoid long periods of use or cramped positions that cause fatigue.
- Use an extension cord connector which holds the trimmer cord into the socket of the extension cord so it won't come apart when tension is applied. The connector should have a hook which allows the cord to be hung on your belt, out of the way of the cutting blades.
- Never pull the trimmer through a hedge by the cord, causing the switch to be tripped on.
- Keep your hands away from the cutting blade. Don't attempt to catch the trimmer if it falls from your hands.

Work Lights

Extension work lights have caused injuries that include electrocution caused by faulty insulation or lack of grounding and burns resulting from the ignition of gasoline vapours due to a broken bulb. Treat work lights with care.

Case Studies

How could the following accidents have been prevented?

1. David was cutting the hedge with an electrical hedge trimmer. He changed his left hand to the over-hand handle in order to reverse direction and his left hand ring finger came in contact with the moving blades of the trimmer. Several stitches were required to close the wound.
2. Jim's father was mowing grass along the gravel driveway. A small rock was thrown through the discharge chute of the mower, ricocheted off the house, and hit Jim who was standing near the house. He was blinded in the right eye.
3. Nancy was mowing long wet grass and the grass began to back up in the discharge opening. She reached into the discharge chute as she tried to brush away a clump of grass and her fingers were struck by the blade. Nancy's right middle finger was amputated.

Heating Sources

Tampering with or modifying your heating system can lead to serious safety hazards. Get the services of a qualified contractor and consult with Sask Power and/or the Department of Labour before doing any work affecting your heating system.

Furnaces — Gas, Electric or Oil

Most of us heat our homes for at least 8 months of the year, so it is very important that we follow good safety practices with regard to the furnaces in our homes.

- Be sure your furnace carries a mark of certification. This mark assures you that the equipment has been engineered and manufactured to strict safety standards.
- Have your furnace checked and cleaned annually for safe, efficient operation. Improperly adjusted furnaces could lead to improperly burned gas which in turn could result in the formation of carbon monoxide. If you ever detect an unfamiliar odor which you think may be escaping gas, call your gas utility at once. Until the serviceperson arrives, keep out of the room, ventilate your house, and do not light a match or turn on a light switch that could ignite the escaping gas.
- Make sure that chimneys are in good condition, free from all obstruction.
- Keep boxes, rags, bags or inflammable materials away from the furnace.
- If the pilot goes out, call a serviceperson to relight it.
- Always ask a professional to do all major servicing of your furnace.

Wood or Coal-Burning Stoves

Wood and coal-burning stoves have been responsible for accidents such as fires caused by using flammable liquids to start the stove or by overheating of stoves and flues, or burns caused by contact to hot surfaces or flames.

Precautions:

- **Have a qualified person install the stove in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Keep a three-foot clearance on all sides of the stove and place fireproof material underneath it. Use a chimney classified for solid fuel and maximum allowable flue gas temperature.**
- **Keep stoves well away from walls, floors and furnishings such as drapery or other inflammable materials or traffic areas.**
- **Make sure that there is adequate fresh air when using stoves and that the flue is cleaned frequently to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. To be safe, keep a window slightly open.**
- **Have the stove inspected once a year to ensure that all linings are intact, that the stove is properly adjusted and clean, that there is no creosote build-up, and that there are no faulty cracks, hinges or legs.**

- Use the proper fuel for the stove. Never use gasoline or other flammable fuel to start the fire.
- Never stoke up the fire so hot it changes the colour of the stove pipe.
- Keep the stove door closed or use a metal screen when the fire is burning.
- If your stove burns coal, remember that coal gas is an ever-present danger and careful stoking is absolutely necessary. When banking in coal fire, always leave red coals showing in order to burn off dangerous coal gas.
- If asbestos has been used to insulate the stove, have the material removed and replaced by someone qualified to do so.
- Never store or use gasoline or other flammable liquids in the same room as the stove.
- Use chimney guards to prevent squirrels or birds from stopping up chimneys.

Fireplaces

Precautions:

- **Have chimney, flue and fireplace cleaned and checked for needed repairs before each heating season, by a qualified service person.**
- Keep a portable dry chemical fire extinguisher in an easily-accessible area.
- Keep a screen in front of the fireplace to prevent sparks from setting fire to the rug.
- Keep kindling and fire-starting materials far away from the fireplace as well as furniture and other combustible materials.
- Do not burn woods treated with tar or other chemicals which might be released into the air.
- Do not overload the fireplace with wood, especially when using artificial logs.
- Never use the fireplace as an incinerator.
- Do not close the fireplace damper when you retire at night if the fire is not totally extinguished; you could risk the formation of carbon monoxide through the incomplete burning of any firewood remaining in the fireplace.

LOOK FOR THE CSA, ULC OR WARNOCK-HERSEY SIGN OF CERTIFICATION ON YOUR FIREPLACE AND FIREPLACE FLUES AND CHIMNEYS AND WOOD OR COAL-BURNING STOVES.

Portable Heaters

Precautions:

- Keep portable heaters where they can't be knocked over or ignite bed clothes or curtains. If you must use one, make sure that it has a safety feature that causes it to automatically turn off if it's turned over.

Kerosene Heaters

Unvented kerosene heaters are appropriate only for emergency or short term heating — if you live in an area prone to power failures or if you have no electricity at all, at the cottage, for example.

Kerosene heaters operate with an open flame and a liquid fuel and pose a greater risk of fire and contact burns than other space heaters. And because they do not have a chimney, kerosene heaters could release noxious gases if the heater is old, dirty or poorly adjusted or if improper fuel is used.

Precautions:

- Make sure the type you use has an automatic extinguishing feature in the event of tipping.
- Allow fresh air in the room while operating. About 1 square inch opening for each 1,000 B.T.U. heat rating is considered adequate. Don't close room doors.
- Do not use in garages or workshops where there are flammable liquids or combustible dust.
- Only use water-clear 1K-grade kerosene fuel. Other fuels such as alcohol, gasoline or naphtha may cause fire, explosion or injury. Lower grades of kerosene will not burn properly and will result in the formation of noxious gas.
- Keep the heater properly maintained. Check the wick weekly for dirt or soot and keep the heater's surface free of dust or spilled kerosene.
- Refuel the heater only when it is cold, and do so outdoors. Fill the tank only 90% full since the liquid will expand when warmed.
- Never leave an unvented kerosene heater on when you're sleeping or no one is around to supervise. Never leave children alone with kerosene heaters.

Electric and Baseboard Heaters

Although electric heaters do not have an open flame, they can still cause fires and burns.

Precautions:

- Electric space heaters should have an automatic switch that cuts the electrical power off if the heater is toppled over.
- Do not use an extension cord for an electric heater unless it is a heavy duty cord rated as high as the current rating listed on your heater. If you are in doubt about overloading the house wiring, call an electrician.
- Do not allow dust, dirt or other debris to accumulate around baseboard heaters. Clean all electric heaters frequently. Unplug before you clean them.
- Keep drapes, bedding, rugs and furniture located well away.
- Never touch an electric heater if you are wet and never use in the bathroom.

Other Space Heaters

Precautions:

- **Check for a pilot light safety system feature that turns the heater off automatically if not enough fresh air for proper combustion is available.**
- **Be aware that older heaters may not have these safety devices.**
- **Do not use unvented gas space heaters for mobile homes. Use only specially designed, sealed-combustion type heating equipment.**
- **Never use flammable liquids around a space heater. The vapours can flow from one area of the room to another and be ignited by the open flame.**
- **Keep a window partially open and the room well ventilated if you use an unvented heater.**
- **Never use an unvented heater overnight or in a room where you are sleeping.**
- **When you light a gas heater, light the match before you turn on the gas to avoid the risk of explosion. If you fail to light the heater on the first try, allow enough time for any gas that has accumulated to disperse before you try again.**
- **If you notice a strong gas smell, turn off all controls, open a window or a door and call a serviceperson.**
- **Have heaters inspected annually to ensure they are properly adjusted and cleaned.**

Hot Water Heaters

A water temperature of 60° C (140° F) can cause a 3rd degree burn in 6 seconds. 54° C (130° F) gives a 30 second margin.

Too many of us keep the thermostats on our hot water heaters at the highest possible setting — too hot to ever use without mixing with cold water. And hot enough to cause serious, scalding burns! Scald burns from hot tap water are more common and more severe than other scald burns and 25% require hospital admission.

To reduce the possibility of tap water burns occurring in your family turn the thermostat on your hot water heater down to 54° C — hot enough to look after the household water needs. Not only will you prevent serious scalding accidents in the home, but you'll reduce your fuel bills.

- Remember to turn the cold water tap **on** first **and off** last.
- Anti-scald devices which regulate the water termperature at the faucet are available for home use. Their effectiveness is limited depending on where they're attached.

Immersion Heaters - NO!

Immersion heaters, the type used to heat a cup of water, are so hazardous that they are banned in Canada. Not only is it illegal for a retailer to sell them, but for a consumer to use them.

Do not use immersion heaters. These could cause instant tragedy!

Smoke Detectors — Fire in the Home

Fire safety in the home can't be taken for granted. The 1982 Fire Commissioner of Canada's Annual Report rated residential properties the most fire-prone location. They account for 46% of all fires and 86% of fire fatalities.

What Can You Do?

1. **Equip your home with one or more smoke detectors, properly placed and kept in perfect working order.**
   - Check and clean your smoke detector (s) once a month using the small brush attachment on your vacuum cleaner. Then hold a lighted match 6 inches from the detector and blow it out. The smoke from the match should cause the alarm to sound.
   - Once a year change the alkaline battery in the smoke detector.
   - If you have trouble with false alarms **do not** remove the battery or disconnect the detector, move it to a better location.
   - Remember a good smoke detector is not a small household convenience; it's a matter of life and death.
2. **Prevention is still the most important consideration in fire safety.**

   Thirty percent of home fires are caused by matches and smoking materials, so:
   - Keep matches out of reach of children.
   - Never smoke in bed.
   - Have an adequate number of ashtrays in every room — more when you entertain.
   - Check that matches and smokers' materials are completely extinguished before throwing them away.

   Twenty to twenty-five percent are caused by chimneys, heat ducts, heating equipment, kitchen appliances, so:
   - Buy CSA and ULC-certified equipment.
   - Maintain and use such units according to directions.
   - Have the chimney swept once a year.
   - Don't accumulate rags, magazines or let dust gather in the attic, garage or furnace room.
   - Store any flammable object at a safe distance from heat sources or open flame.

   Ten per cent of fires in the home are caused by electricity, so:
   - Buy CSA and ULC-certified equipment.
   - Have repairs done by a competent electrician.
   - Don't run electric wires or cords under carpets, or tack them to walls.
   - Have wiring checked periodically.
   - Don't overload circuits.

Another 10 per cent are caused by flammable liquids and open flames:

- Don't pour kerosene on wood or coal fires.
- Use cleaning fluids in a well-ventilated area.
- Throw away oily rags.
- Store flammable liquids in a cool place, in tightly closed containers.

3. **Decide on a clear, precise evacuation plan** for your family. Consider who will have to be awakened and helped, determine which windows can be used as emergency exits and establish a rendezvous point for everyone to meet once out to ensure everyone is out. (People have perished by returning inside their burning house to rescue someone who was already safe outside). Participate with family members, particularly children in practising the plan.

4. **Post the number of the fire department** on your telephone or on the cover of the book.

Upholstered Furniture

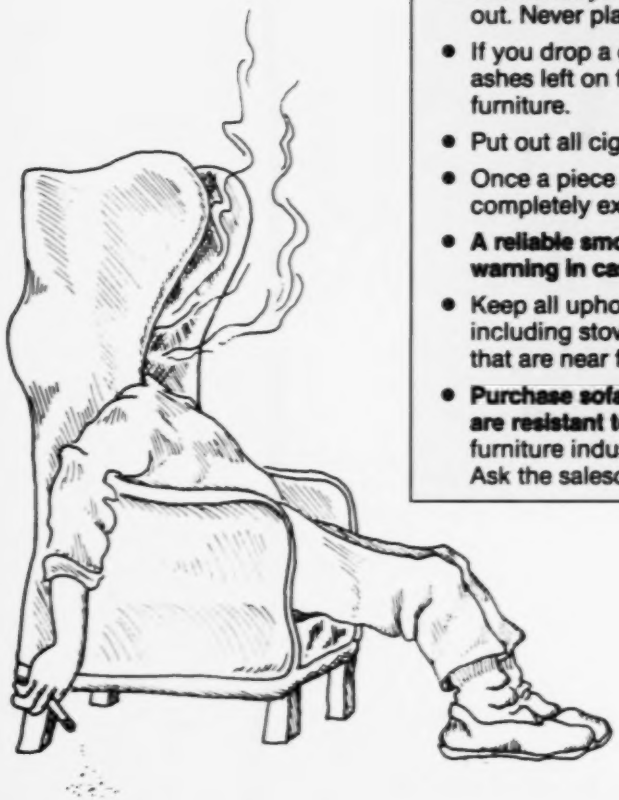
Each year in Canada, hundreds of people are injured or killed in fires in which upholstered furniture was the first item to ignite. Most of these injuries and deaths result not only from burns, but from the inhalation of smoke and toxic gases released in these fires.

Some Facts to Consider

- Cigarettes are the most common causes of fires in upholstered furniture.
- Upholstered furniture fires tend to smoulder for hours, especially when cigarettes are a source of ignition. Many persons die from the smoke and toxic gases generated during that time, especially if they are sleeping.
- When ignition sources are flaming, such as lighters or candles, the burning may be much more rapid, and deadly quantities of toxic gases may be produced in a matter of minutes.

Precautions:

- Be careful about smoking when sleepy, drinking alcoholic beverages or using medications.
- Use ashtrays with wide, deep sides to prevent lit cigarettes from falling out. Never place an ashtray on upholstered furniture.
- If you drop a cigarette, retrieve it at once and extinguish any sparks or ashes left on furniture. **Check thoroughly** between cushions or under furniture.
- Put out all cigarettes in ashtrays before you leave a room.
- Once a piece of furniture has begun to smoulder, it's difficult to completely extinguish. **Call the Fire Department.**
- **A reliable smoke detector could save your life by providing early warning in case of fire.**
- Keep all upholstered furniture well away from any ignition sources including stoves, fireplaces, heaters, etc. Examine any electrical cords that are near furniture and replace if they are frayed or defective.
- **Purchase sofas and chairs which are made of fabric and materials that are resistant to cigarette ignition.** Great strides have been made by the furniture industry to make products more resistant to cigarette ignition. Ask the salesclerk for this information.



Second-Hand Safety

The garage sale business is booming, but there are no guarantees on the safety of appliances, tools or other products you purchase.

Remember, it's very possible that any item available at a garage sale is well used and possibly worn out, in need or repair and **unsafe**.

Here are some things to watch for:

- **Old lamps made with brass bulb sockets** can be lethal. The bakelite used to insulate the socket can deteriorate over time and can result in the entire lamp becoming electrically "live".
- **Lamps with brass pull-on chains** are also potentially fatal. Old lamps were made without insulating links inserted as they are now. If you buy an old lamp, take it to an electrical store and have the entire socket reviewed by an electrician.
- **Old appliances** weren't always made with grounding plugs or double-insulated. Electric appliances such as electric frying pans use so much electrical current, that older models could cause fatal injuries.
- Over the years, **connections on electrical appliances** have a tendency to work loose or insulating materials deteriorate. By today's standards, cords on older electrical goods are likely to have insufficient insulating material which could result in electrical fires.
- **Baby equipment** (See Booklet 5).

Secure in Your Home

Security does not have to be costly. The steps for proper safeguards for yourself and your property range from common sense precautions to: the installation and use of good locks on all entrances; the purchase of detection devices; the ultimate in expensive central alarm systems that can detect fires, broken pipes, failing freezer compressors and the presence of gas.

Some tips to ensure you're secure:

- Make sure your home looks occupied
- Make entry difficult
- Install good locks and window latches
- Participate in some type of police-sponsored identification program
- After all these measures, consider whether you need an alarm and if so which type, perimeter or space protector.

Some insurance companies give discounts to home owners or apartment dwellers who install equipment to **prevent** fire and theft.

Insurance

At some stage in our lives, we all consider buying insurance. **Property insurance** is meant to protect you financially against loss or damage to your home, contents and personal belongings. The policy may also include personal liability coverage for bodily injury or property damage caused to a third party for which you may be liable. To get enough protection, do a complete inventory of your house and contents. **Life and health insurance** can help to protect you and your family financially in case of injury, disability or death. When buying property or life and health insurance, choose your policy carefully and know how it works. Comparisons can save you money and ensure that you buy the insurance that best meets your needs. Further information can be obtained from your insurance agent.

Safety Aptitude Quizzes

Following are a collection of quizzes to see how "smart" you are as a safe consumer. Each correct answer is worth one point. A score of 50 or more means you're conscientious about safety and least likely to have any accidents with appliances, tools and small equipment. If you fall into the 30-49 point range, you need to brush up your consumer skills again and check your home for safety. If your grade is 29 or less, don't go to sleep at nights — anything could happen in your house!

A. Home Safety — Multiple Choice

1. If you want to test a connection in the gas line for leaks, you should:
   a. test for leaks with a match.
   b. make a watery soap solution, spread it over the joint and watch for bubbles.
   c. put your head in close to the connection and sniff.
   c. call the gas company.
2. When lighting gas appliances, you should:
   a. always light the match before turning on the gas.
   b. turn on the gas before you light the match.
   c. turn on the gas then look for the instructions attached to the gas appliance.
   d. call the gas company and light your appliance.
3. When a fuse blows, you should:
   a. disconnect any extra appliances.
   b. put in a new fuse.
   c. use a penny if you can't find a fuse.
   d. light a candle and forget about it.
4. If you're leaving home for the weekend, you should:
   a. turn down the thermostat.
   b. check to see that all appliances are unplugged.
   c. unplug the television, stereo and radio.
   d. put the gas barbecue in the garage for safekeeping.

Answers:

1. The correct answer is **b**. To test for gas leaks in a connection, first check for bubbles escaping the joint after you spread it with a soapy film. Then you can call the gas company.
2. The correct answer is **a**. if you turn the gas on before you light the match, you risk causing a serious gas explosion.
3. There are two correct answers, **a**. and **b**. First, disconnect any extra appliances then put in a new fuse. Use only the proper size fuse — usually 15 amperes. Never use a penny — that's how to start a major fire!
4. There are two correct answers here too — **b**. and **c**. Disconnect all appliances, including the television set and radio when you leave home for any period of time. But never store your gas barbecue in the garage. Any liquid propane tank has a device that vents gas automatically if the pressure builds up as it might during hot weather. LP gas is much heavier than air and will flow like an invisible stream to the lowest point and collect there, creating a potential hazard for fire within your garage. While you can bring the grill itself inside for storage, always keep the fuel tank outside. Some fire insurance companies will nullify your policy if you violate this rule.

B. How Do Accidents Rate?

The following list gives the ten leading types of accident fatalities. Arrange them in the order of the most serious to the least serious, starting with the leading type.

Drowning _____

Falls _____

Poisonings _____

Motor vehicle accidents (occurring in traffic) _____

Suffocations _____

Industrial accidents _____

Aircraft accidents _____

Fires _____

Firearms _____

Motor vehicle accidents (not occurring in traffic) _____

Answers:

Based on Accident Fatalities, Canada 1983 — Canada Safety Council — Source — Vital Statistics, Statistics Canada

In 1983 the 10 leading causes of accidental death were:

Motor vehicle - traffic	45.5%
Falls	19.4%
Drowning	9.3%
Fire	5.5%
Industrial type	5.3%
Suffocation	5.3%
Poisoning	4.8%
Motor vehicle - non traffic	1.8%
Aircraft	1.3%
Firearms	.4%

These represent 97% of all accidental deaths to Canadians.

The home ranked second behind the traffic environment as the place where accidents most often occurred.

Falls were by far the leading cause of death to persons 74 years of age and over.

C. What Do These Items Have in Common?

Hard Hats
Eye Goggles/Safety Glasses
Hearing Protectors
Protective Gloves
Safety Trousers
Steel-toed Boots

Answer:

These are all safety wear products that consumers should **own and use** if they ever use any electrical tools around the house and yard. Professionals using tools wear these items; so should you!

D. Which Tool Can Cause What Accident?

Match the power tool on the left with the potential hazard on the right.

___ 1. Electric Sander
___ 2. Table Saw
___ 3. Power Nailer
___ 4. Electric Drill
___ 5. Chain Saw
___ 6. Electric Hedge Trimmer
___ 7. Electric Lawn Mower
___ 8. Electric Snow Blower

a. Flying projectiles capable of ploughing into flesh with the impact of a 22-calibre bullet.
b. Foot or hand caught by rotating blade.
c. Tool kicks the stock back and drags a hand into the blade.
d. Cutting through the electrical cord and causing accidental electrocution.
e. Sparks igniting nearby flammable liquids such as paint, varnish or gasoline.
f. Flying material and debris piercing the eye.
g. Power tool improperly held and slices through the knee.
h. Carelessness when setting the tool down and failing to unplug it, resulting in accidental and deadly discharge.

Answers:

1. - f.
2. - c.
3. - h.
4. - e.
5. - g.
6. - d.
7. - b.
8. - a.

E. Spot the Safety Hazard

What is the person in each situation doing wrong?

1. Bridget feels like going to bed early tonight because she's tired and chilly as if a cold's coming on. She turns up the electric blanket, snuggles under, makes room for her pet poodle Fifi beside her and goes to sleep.
2. Joe is trimming a hedge with an electric hedge trimmer, but because of the length of the extension cord, he has to keep it thrown over his shoulder. It occasionally slips off his shoulder, but Joe grabs it quickly and puts it back in place.
3. It has just started to rain when Walter realizes he still hasn't cut the lawn and thinks he had better rush out and do it while he still has time or the lawn will look unsightly before it dries again. He pulls the electric lawn mower out of the tool shed and starts mowing in the gentle drizzle.
4. Bobby is running a little late for school, so he quickly grabs a sugary-coated pastry for his breakfast-on-the-run, pops it into the toaster, then rushes back to his room to grab his books and jacket.

5. Mary finds it extremely inconvenient to move a dresser out of the way each time she uses the iron, so she plugs an extension cord in the outlet across the hall and leaves it there since she usually irons a shirt or blouse for work every morning. It's a lot more convenient than having to move the dresser or keep hunting for the extension cord everytime she needs it. The cord was the same colour as the rug anyway and doesn't look that bad.
6. Martha brings a small electric radio into the laundry room. She feels that she spends so much time there she might as well enjoy herself while she does the laundry. She places the radio on a shelf above the laundry tubs so that she can hear it clearly when it plays.
7. The guests left for the evening and Patricia decides to do a quick clean up then rather than wake to a mess in the morning. While her husband gathers up the glasses, she pulls out the vacuum cleaner and vacuums up the crumbs, cigarette butts and ashes.
8. Bill lit the fireplace, starting it with a piece of crumpled newspaper. After the logs were burning properly, he decided to get rid of all the newspaper that had piled up in the family room and tossed them onto the log.

Answers:

1. Bridget's mistake is in allowing her pet to sleep with her on her electric blanket. Sharp claws or animal urine could cause the electric blanket to give Bridget a serious electrical shock.
2. Joe should use a cord that is the proper length rather than try to keep it wrapped around his shoulder. It would be easy for him to grab for the slipping cord and without thinking put his hand right into the path of the clipping blades.
3. It's not a good idea to work on the lawn if it's damp; moisture may seep into the electrical components of a lawnmower and act as a conductor of electricity between the current-carrying wire and the grounded metal parts. Unless the mower has a ground fault circuit interrupter, the leakage current could energize the lawnmower housing and pose a shock hazard to Walter.
4. Sugary-coated pastries should never be used in toasters because they can drip, gum up the toaster and cause fires.
5. Mary's mistake is leaving the extension cord plugged into the wall outlet and the iron. Not only is this a fire hazard, but it is easy for anyone walking down the hall to trip over the cord, pull the iron down, causing it to accidentally turn on and cause a fire. This is in addition to possible injury from the fall.
6. Although Martha might be very careful, it is just too easy for her to unconsciously reach up from the laundry tubs with wet hands to adjust the radio. This is not a very good location for an electrical appliance. It can also slip from the shelf and fall into the tub, creating a potential shock hazard.
7. It's great that Patricia still has enough energy after her party to clean up, but she should never use a vacuum cleaner to pick up cigarette butts. The dust in a vacuum cleaner bag is highly flammable and a spark from a smouldering butt could set it on fire.
8. Never use a fireplace or wood burning stove as an incinerator. The heat could exceed safe limits and cause a chimney fire or ignite the roof or walls adjacent to the fireplace.

F. True or False - Home Safety

_____ 1. When a 15-ampere fuse blows, you may replace it with a fuse of 5 or 25 ampere rating.

_____ 2. Replace burned out light bulbs with one of a larger size.

_____ 3. Always grasp the plug, not the cord to connect or disconnect electrical appliances.

_____ 4. Frayed cords must be replaced only when the bare wires become exposed.

_____ 5. Extension and appliance cords should be run under rugs when an outlet is not located near a lamp or appliance.

_____ 6. When using appliances with removable cords, the cords should first be plugged into the appliance and then into the outlet.

_____ 7. Beaters must be removed from the mixer before cleaning them.

_____ 8. Electrical appliances may be totally immersed in water for washing them if they are unplugged.

_____ 9. Portable heaters and sunlamps should never be used in the bathroom.

_____ 10. When cleaning or repairing electrical appliances it is not necessary to unplug them if the switch is turned off.

_____ 11. Never use a hairdryer while in the tub or shower.

_____ 12. Never turn lights on or off when in the tub or shower.

_____ 13. Keep light sockets filled, even with a burned out bulb, to keep children from putting their fingers in the sockets.

_____ 14. Extension and appliance cords make great skipping ropes for kids.

_____ 15. Outdoors, it's a good idea to tape all plug connections with plastic electrical tape to make them as watertight as possible.

_____ 16. If you have an artificial Christmas tree made of a metallic material, it is safer to decorate with floodlights or spotlights than strings of lights.

Answers:

1. F	5. F	9. T	13. T
2. F	6. T	10. F	14. F
3. T	7. T	11. T	15. T
4. F	8. F	12. T	16. T

G. Can You Answer These Home Safety Questions?

1. Where is your home's fuse or circuit breaker box?

_____

2. Do you have enough electrical outlets to avoid the use of multiple plugs and extension cords?

_____

3. Do you have separate circuits for all major home appliances?

_____

4. Are your range and range hood free of grease and dust?

_____

5. Do you know how to put out a fire?

_____

6. Do you always read instructions and cautions on your major home appliances and the products used with them?

_____

7. Does your home have a smoke detector?

_____

8. Do you keep the area around your appliances free of dust, lint, paper, rags or chemicals?

_____

H. Test Your H.S.Q. (Household Safety Quotient) - Answer Yes or No

1. You have at least two dry chemical fire extinguishers in your house, mounted in strategic areas, and you know how to use them. _____
2. You know where all your gas and water cut-off valves are located and how to close them. _____
3. Fire escapes are uncluttered and painted. Ladders are in good operation and are checked periodically. _____
4. The TV antenna is well-secured, electrically grounded with a lightning arrester and mounted a safe distance from any overhead wiring. _____
5. Electric garage-door openers are equipped with a safety stop to prevent accidental crushing of children or adults. _____
6. Sliding glass doors have visible safety strips to prevent walking through glass. _____
7. You keep cords to lamps, appliances, TV's, etc. out of areas through which people walk. _____
8. The vent stack connection of your heating system or hot water system is checked periodically to prevent toxic gases from entering your home. _____
9. Your fireplace has glass safety doors or a metal fire screen. _____
10. The chimney flue has a tile liner approved by the local building and fire codes. _____
11. Fireplaces, chimney and wood stove flues are checked and cleaned at least once a year. _____
12. Stoves or fireplaces are never used as incinerators. _____
13. You have installed non-slip mats or rough-surfaced adhesive strips on the floors of showers and bathtub. _____
14. You always check bath or shower water temperatures with your hand before bathing. _____
15. You have had an electrician replace bathroom light fixtures which had pull chains with fixtures that are connected to wall switches. _____
16. Bathroom light switches are located away from the tub or shower so you must get out of the bath or shower to turn them on or off. _____
17. All your electrical appliances have CSA approval. _____

18. You never use a hair dryer while bathing. _____

19. Children are never permitted to play with electrical appliances. _____

20. If an appliance accidentally falls into water, you always pull out the electrical plug before reaching for the appliance. _____

21. You never alter the electrical or mechanical design of an appliance. _____

22. You recognize that an electrical appliance — TV set, dryer — is defective if you feel a tingling sensation when touching it, and you have it repaired. _____

23. You never place electrical appliances next to heating equipment such as radiators. _____

24. You never cover ventilating openings on electrical appliances. _____

25. You always disconnect electrical appliances before oiling, cleaning or servicing. _____

26. You always replace worn cords or plugs before they become a hazard. _____

27. You avoid the use of an extension cord on appliances, and if you do use one because an outlet is not appropriately placed, you always use a cord with the same or greater wattage and/or amperage than the appliance. _____

28. Your clothes dryer is vented directly to the outside, not to a chimney flue, into the garage, basement or other room. _____

29. You always check the lint trap in the clothes dryer and remove lint before every load of laundry. _____

30. Old electric space heaters have been replaced with models that have automatic cut-off switches in case of a tip-over. _____

31. You never allow your dog or cat to sleep on top of an electric blanket or heating pad. _____

32. You never use safety pins or metallic fasteners on electric blankets or heating pads. _____

33. You never leave an iron unattended on any fabric. _____

34. You always unplug a steam iron when filling it with water. _____

35. You had your house checked for adequate electrical service by a licensed electrician within the past two years. _____

36. If your home was built between 1964 and 1973, you had your wiring checked by a qualified electrician to determine if you have aluminum wiring. If so, the electrician made appropriate repairs to prevent fire hazards. _____

37. You have a full circuit breaker panel box instead of fuses. _____

38. Your main electrical panel box has all circuits clearly marked. _____

39. The electrical panel box has a main disconnect. _____

40. All rooms and areas with running water are protected with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters. _____

41. You use extension cords only as a temporary convenience, not for permanent installation. _____

42. You purchase only extension cords which have a 15 AMP or more rating capacity. _____

43. You always inspect extension cords for fraying, exposed wires or loose plugs. _____

44. You use 3-wire extension cords for appliances with 3-pronged plugs. _____

45. If you have tots or toddlers, you cover unused electrical outlets. _____

46. You disconnect an electrical cord by grasping the plug, not the cord. _____

47. You always unplug or disconnect electricity before making any repairs on appliances or fixtures. _____

48. Smoke detectors are installed in basement and bedroom area hallways. _____

49. You always light the match before turning on the gas stove, dryer or water heater to prevent a gas explosion. _____

50. If you heat or cook with gas, you are aware of possible leaks which appear as a noxious odor. If a heavy gas odor is present, you immediately leave your home and call the utility company or fire department. Never light a match or turn on a light fixture. A small spark can set off an explosion. _____

Your Safety Score Rating - How did you do? (Count your "Yes" answers)

40 - 50: You should have written this booklet!
30 - 39: Congratulations! The insurance companies love you.
20 - 29: Good, but please be more careful.
10 - 19: Please don't invite us to your house.
0 - 9: Call the ambulance, alert the fire department, you are living in a high risk area!